



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/661,637

09/13/2000

Abraham R. Matthews

1384.001US1

7670

21186

7590

05/05/2004

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

P.O. BOX 2938

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

SHIN, KYUNG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2132

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/661,637

Applicant(s)

MATTHEWS, ABRAHAM R.

Examiner

Kyung H Shin

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responding to application papers dated 9/13/2000.
2. Claims **1-18** are pending. Claims **1, 6, 11** are **independent**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,976 B1) in view of De Boer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,658,013 B1).

Regarding Claim 1, 6, 11, Alles discloses a method and system of delivering security services, comprising:

- c) providing both router services and host services for a customer using the plurality of processors in the ring configuration and using the second processing system.
(see col. 3, lines 43-47; col. 3, lines 24-26; col. 2, lines 44-48)

Alles disclose service provider such as routing and hosting, but does not disclose a ring configuration for multiple processors or two ring configurations connected by a tunnel (network path), de Boer discloses a method and system of delivering security services, comprising:

- a) connecting a plurality of processors in a ring configuration within a first processing system; (see col. 4, lines 22-37)
- b) establishing a secure connection between the processors in the ring configuration across an internet protocol (IP) connection to a second processing system to form a tunnel; (see col. 4, lines 22-37) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Alles utilizing a ring configuration to enable the traffic of network path as taught in de Boer. One would have been motivated to combine the ring configuration in de Boer in order to make faster and more bandwidth efficient and integrated connection.

Regarding Claim 2, 7, 12, Alles discloses the method and system of claim 1, 6, 11, wherein, to support a communications network, the plurality of processors includes one or more control processors, one or more access processors, and one or more processing processors. (see col. 7, lines 15-22:)

Regarding Claim 3, 8, 13, Alles discloses the method and system of claim 2, 7, 11, wherein for each of a plurality of customers, a virtual router is formed in the first processing system and is operably connected to a virtual router formed in the second system. (see col. 2, lines 48-51)

Regarding Claim 4, 9, 14, Alles discloses the method and system of claim 2, 7, 11, wherein for each of a plurality of customers, a virtual private network is formed using a virtual router formed in the first processing system and operably connected to a virtual router formed in the second system. (see col. 2, lines 48-51)

Regarding Claim 5, 10, 15, Alles discloses the method and system of claim 2, 7, 11, wherein the connecting a plurality of processors in the ring configuration includes forming dual counter rotating ring connections, each connecting to each of the plurality of processors. (see col. 4, lines 22-37)

Regarding Claim 16, Alles discloses the system of claim 11, further comprising: a services management system that provides changeable provisioning of processor capacity among a plurality of customers. (see col. 4, lines 3-6)

Regarding Claim 17, Alles discloses the system of claim 11, further comprising: a services management system that provides firewall protection for each of a plurality of customers. (see col. 7, lines 52-61)

Regarding Claim 18, Alles discloses the system of claim 11, further comprising: a services management system that provides provisioning of processor capacity among a plurality of customers, wherein each customer's resources are isolated from those of all the other customers. (see col. 3, lines 43-47; col. 3, lines 58-60)

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H Shin whose telephone number is 703-305-0711. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 4:30 pm.

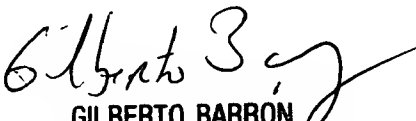
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 703-305-1830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KHS

Kyung H Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2132

KHS
May 2, 2004


GILBERTO BARRON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100